

Lesson  
3**Agreement Problems in Sentences***Teaching*

**Subjects in Unusual Positions** In some sentences, unusual word order makes the subject hard to find. When a sentence is the form of a question, begins with a phrase, or begins with *here* or *there*, reorder the words, putting the subject before the verb to decide whether the verb should be singular or plural.

**Question:** Is that book interesting?  
That book is interesting.

**Here and There:** Here are the new magazines.  
The new magazines are here.

**Beginning phrase:** In the library are meeting rooms.  
Meeting rooms are in the library.

**Predicate Nouns** A predicate noun follows a linking verb and describes the subject. The verb must agree with the subject, not the predicate noun.

My favorite reading material is mysteries.  
Mysteries are my favorite reading material.

**Prepositional Phrases** The subject of a verb is never part of a prepositional phrase. Mentally block out any words between the subject and verb. Make the verb agree with the subject.

Books about baseball entertain fans. (plural subject and verb)  
Baseball on the field or in books entertains fans. (singular subject and verb)

**Making Subjects and Verbs Agree**

Underline the subject of each sentence. Then underline the verb that agrees with the subject.

- Here (is, are) the latest issue of the newsletter.
- One pleasant result of the production number (was, were) demands for encores.
- The cause of most earthquakes (is, are) the release of stress along a fault.
- There (was, were) several clowns in the little car.
- In the line (stand, stands) the patient ticket buyers.
- Assignments from that teacher (is, are) always challenging.
- (Is, Are) the children's petting zoo nearby?
- The program about great moments in the 1990s (repeat, repeats) tonight.
- Many hearing problems (is, are) a product of constant, loud noise.
- There (is, are) two letters for you.
- (Do, Does) that dog have a collar and tag?
- The list of names of winners (is, are) being read now.
- Into the pool (jump, jumps) the hot children.
- Where (is, are) your new puppy?

# Agreement Problems in Sentences

*More Practice*

## A. Making Subjects and Verbs Agree

Underline the subject. Then underline the verb that agrees with the subject.

1. The edges of the playing field (was, were) rimmed with ice.
2. The nurses at Dr. Stone's office always (seems, seem) pleasant.
3. There (wasn't, weren't) enough dictionaries for the whole class.
4. (Does, Do) voices sound different on a tape recording?
5. Here (is, are) the diamonds that our baseball teams always use.
6. From this potion (rises, rise) strange vapors.
7. Where (is, are) the boxes of cereal in this store?
8. All the nations along this line (pays, pay) close attention to seismologists' reports.
9. Why (doesn't, don't) Leslie join the group at the campground?
10. Under the bed (hides, hide) my timid kittens.

## B. Correcting Agreement in Number

In each of these sentences, decide whether the verb agrees with the subject. If it does, write **Correct** on the line. If it does not, write the correct form of the verb on the line.

1. Were that baby-sitter willing to take care of four children? \_\_\_\_\_
2. There was left-overs from the faculty luncheon. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Here is the box of paper clips you need. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Antique cars like the Model A costs thousands of dollars. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Don't Uncle Matt write interesting letters? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Where is the Seven Wonders of the World? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Into the swamp slide the crocodiles. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The number of accidents on this road have been increasing. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do the newspaper list all the cable stations? \_\_\_\_\_
10. There is not enough volunteers at the shelter. \_\_\_\_\_
11. The artwork on the gallery walls are priceless. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Here is the cause of our problems. \_\_\_\_\_

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Underline the subject and verb of each numbered sentence. If there is an agreement error, write the subject and the correct form of the verb on the lines below. If the subject and verb agree, write **Correct**.

(1) In our attic lies numerous old treasures. (2) One box of chipped dishes are not worth much in cash. (3) However, the worth of that box is the memories it holds for my mother. (4) Shelves at one end of the attic holds all our old dolls and games. (5) Don't everyone want to save souvenirs of all kinds?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Making Subjects and Verbs Agree**

In each sentence beginning below, underline the word that should be used as the simple subject in a sentence. Then supply a complete predicate, including a verb of your choice, to complete the sentence. Make sure your verb agrees with the underlined subject.

**EXAMPLE** The waves on the shore *wash away our footprints.*

1. A band without trumpet players

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The captain of the basketball team

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The stores at the intersection

\_\_\_\_\_

4. That ship beyond the rocks

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The members of the crew

\_\_\_\_\_